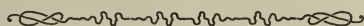


ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Medical Officer's (26th) Annual Report, 1901.

ROCK HOUSE,

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD,

FEBRUARY 19TH, 1902.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor for the 26th time of submitting to you my yearly report upon the health and mortality of your Township—Appending the Local Government Board Tables and that of C for the County Council.

The New Tables to which I referred last year only really become Official for return now, and Table II is somewhat altered to that issued last year, in that, seeking for information as to deaths of persons dying outside but belonging to the district refers to such deaths taking place in Public Institutions *only*—but in classifying and calculating rates, &c., all other deaths have also been accounted for.

Although there is a slight reduction, I have unfortunately to quote an abnormally high General Death Rate, attributable to the prevalence of infectious disease, and had the calculation been based as formerly, and not upon that estimated on the “census,” viz.: a population of 5,374 in place of 6,325 (1st July, 1901), the rate would have fractionally over-reached 30 per 1,000. As it is the rate is 25.77 against 27.4 for previous year or nearly 5 per 1,000 over the average for the decade 1899-00, which was 21.71 and consequently the

Zymotic Death Rate, usually accompanying a high “General” is also as unsatisfactory, higher than last year and due to Epidemic disease, the increase being most marked under Measles and Diarrhoea.

This rate was 7.11 against 6.82 for year before and 3.37 for the said decade. In sequence also do we find the

Infantile Death Rate maintaining big proportions, two less in the number of deaths under one year (56) and equal to a rate of 225, or 32 more than the average for the decade referred to before, viz.:—193. In connection with the deaths among children I may here observe that the mortality at the sub-divisional age 1-5 has been very much more in evidence. Thus there were 34 deaths last year, nine more than in 1900, and 13 more than the average for the immediate five years.

Measles, Scarlatina, and Diphtheria claiming a heavier mortality at this age period than in early Infantile life.

Mortality in infants under one year :—

			Average previous six years		1900	1901
Respiratory Diseases	...	12·6	...	23	...	13
Enteritis	...	7·8	...	2	...	6
Wasting Diseases of Infancy		9·3	...	13	...	11
Convulsive „	...	7·5	...	3	...	5
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			37·2	41		35
<hr/>						
Zymotic : Scarlet	...	0·32	...	—	...	—
Measles	...	0·66	...	—	...	1
Pertussis	...	1·00	...	1	...	—
Diarrhœa	...	3·30	...	6	...	10
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			42·48	48		46
<hr/>						

As I before pointed out we should find after the “census” an advanced figure in the population would reduce the *Birth Rate*, which held one of the highest rates in the country for a long time, and this, which is 39·2 rather than 44·6 (average for previous decade) may be taken as a much more normal and reliable data.

Registered Births	...	Males—127	Females—121	Total—248
„ Deaths	„	82	„ 81	„ 163
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		45	40	85

The estimated population on 1st January, is 6,367, housed in 1,116 dwellings, or 5·65 persons per house.

Infective Sickness notified			and	Mortality therefrom		
Average				Average		
Scheduled :	previous 9 years	1900	1901	previous 9 years	1900	1901
Scarlatina	... 34	53	67	2·2	4	5
Erysipelas	... 6	4	3	—	—	—
Diphtheria and M. C.	2	38	87	0·8	14	10
Fever	... 6·2	35	54	1·6	8	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48·2	130	211	4·6	26	24
Not Scheduled—Measles		...	...	5·1	1	6
Pertussis		...	...	2·8	3	—
Diarrhœa		...	...	4·1	6	15
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				16·6	36	45

Table IV. shews summary of deaths from all causes and at subjoined ages to be—under one year 56, one to five 34, total 90; five to fifteen, 12; fifteen to twenty-five, 10; twenty-five to sixty-five, 31; and sixty-five upwards, 20; total 73. Nine more each in the two particular divisions under and over five years. Gross, 163.

Detailed analysis of causes of mortality will be found in the same table, but for short summary here—Measles caused 6, Scarlatina 5, Diphtheria and M. C. 10, Fever 9, Diarrhœa 15, Enteritis 6, Phthisis 8, Respiratory Diseases 22, Heart Disease 10, Accidents 6, and the remainder to various other causes.

Sickness during the year.—First with regard to that of the infective type. Table III. shews details of age and sex incidence.

Scarlet fever.—In January we had one case, with a free interval until April, when a second case cropped up in the same locality (Warrington Road), when each succeeding month saw it increasing, attaining its maximum in August, and only shewing an appreciable decline after October. The usual run from house to house, after its first introduction, being observed as in previous years, and from similar causes. In many houses there were multiple cases, 2, 3, and 4, and overcrowding was not infrequently observed. Both this and diphtheria was notified in one house where two families lived, and the like in another where three families lived, both Tetley street. Practically the whole of the district was affected during the last eight months of the year. I look anxiously forward to the time when we can have isolation of the earlier occurring cases, and thorough disinfection of infected bedding, clothing, &c., as the best means for meeting the mischief. Zymotic death rate 0·79. One death in each month, January, May, July, September, and October

Diphtheria.—At the end of 1900 I made a special report on the epidemic which had for a few months been prevalent, and also virulent in the proportion of fatalities to number attacked. During that year of 38 cases returned we had 14 deaths, or a case mortality of 37 per cent. The disease continued throughout that *last* year, the epidemic attaining its maximum in January, 22 cases; February, 11; March, 10; April, 5; May, 8; June, 10; July, 1; August, 2; September, 4; October, 5; November 7; and 2 of M. croup. The deaths were:—January, 4; February, 1; March, 1; May, 1; November, 2; December, 1. In table III. you will find incidence of age and sex of those attacked to be:—

	Under 1 year.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25 up.	
Females	2	10	28	3	2	= 45
Males	1	11	16	10	2	= 40
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	21	44	13	4	= 85
	—	—	—	—	—	—
M. croup	1 male	1 female	...	...	...	2
Mortality .....	...	2 of each	1 male 4 females		1 male	= 4 } 6 } 10

shewing case mortality to be 11·5 per cent. and an inference that the sickness was milder in type.

Practically it traversed the same ground as mentioned in the special report, but at mid-year got into Bamfurlong Ward. There seems to have been cases of an ambulant nature, which would account further for its dissemination. The two schools affected were in January, 1901, kept further closed by a holiday extension of a fortnight, while in the meantime they had undergone a strict disinfection and cleansing. I do not know that I have any further additions to make to what I have already referred to. In one instance a bacteriological report was sent to me from Professor Delépine confirming the diagnosis, and which is the only instance taken advantage of during the past year of valuable aid afforded in connection with diagnosis, and later evidence of satisfactory freedom from it.

Typhoid, as usual, contributed its share to the zymotic death rate, a case occurred in January and another in May. August sees the commencement of two outbreaks, one in Warrington Road, the other in Bickershaw Lane. In December I made a special report upon these which will be quite fresh in your memories.

The total cases during the year were 54 and deaths 9, or a rate per 1,000 of 1.42, and case mortality 16 per cent.

Diarrhœa. In the hot weather of July and August summer diarrhœa was very prevalent, 14 of the deaths taking place in this the third quarter. Enteritis, too, as usual, and very much allied in many of its characters was also prevalent. The zymotic death rate was equal to 2.37 from which and twice that of year before, it may be inferred there must have been a considerable amount of sickness.

Measles was somewhat prevalent in the earlier portion of the year, April most particularly, with five deaths, but there was no occasion to resort to school closure. Where, however, knowledge of its existence became known the usual instructions were given for keeping such and those exposed to it away from school. Zymotic Death Rate 0.94.

Erysipelas occasioned three enquiries by the Inspector but there was nothing calling for further comment in their incidence, though one house, though clean, was overcrowded.

Puerperal never came under notice, which is highly satisfactory.

The mortality from *Phthisis* shews a marked rise both on last year and the general average, being 1.26 against 0.75, while all forms of *Tuberculosis* is 1.58. Against this there is a decided fall upon the high rate from Respiratory diseases, it being 5.05 as against that of 7.00 quoted for 1900.

I have as usual attended your monthly meetings reporting as to the amount of mortality and sickness, and, bringing before you matters, the outcome of observations made by customary periodical inspections about the district. The chief points which have engaged consideration may be briefly summarised:—

Interview at Manchester with Mr. Tatton, and ulterior attention *re* “Borsdane Brook” which, I much regret to state, continues so filthy and so much polluted. I must strongly urge your Council to persist in its efforts to secure some action at as early a date as possible that the people may be freed from respiring the foul ~~emulations~~ *emanations* ensuing therefrom.

More “effectual scavenging,” and asking for each contractor to give best attention to removal of nightsoil, plus, thorough cleansing, and liberal strewing of disinfectant, both to ashpit and immediate surroundings.

Instructions as to retailing of milk at a farm where infective sickness had been reported.

Overcrowding, which, in several instances, extended beyond the members of one family (lodgers).

Pollution of Common Lane Brook at boundary in Plank Lane by sewage from houses at Shuttle Hillock, and advising that the Leigh Sanitary Authority be written to drawing their attention to such source of pollution.

Condition of gullies and adjacent brickwork, yard, and sheet surfaces, especially in Bickershaw Lane where typhoid existed, and to removal generally of poultry and pigeon pens, which diminished a free circulation of fresh air.

Cheetham House Farm engaged my attention through Inspector's notes of its delapidated and unsanitary state, and of which I gave a special report as to detailed requirements to put same in a proper habitable and sanitary condition, viz. :—

House.—Roof, ceilings, external walls non-weather proof, windows, and ventilation by fire places, &c., unsatisfactory.

Yard.—Closet and ashpit, on privy midden system, absolutely in need of reconstruction.

Spouting of house very poor, and absent altogether in outbuildings, no drain, and probably pollution by naked eye appearances alone, of the well water supposed to supply the house, though the shippin was supplied from Council's main. After pressure and trouble these several important matters have been attended to and put in order.

In connection with fever, advised under the peculiar difficulties, the engagement of district nursing to cope with same.

Borsdane Brook, and not without sufficient cause, has been a source of perpetual grievance throughout the year.

The Hospital Question has absorbed a large proportion of the Council's time, having in view, early on, a conjoint scheme with Ashton, but which falling through led to still further interest and consideration for securing land for such provision in your own district, which has now assumed some hopes of activity in erecting suitable accommodation, land having been provisionally acquired as a site and plans drawn up on the Local Government Board pavilion system and deposited for Inspector's enquiry.

The Water Supply is on constant service system and is, in every way satisfactory. Different analyses have been made and reports received proving its good quality.

Sewerage, Satisfactory. Effluents have been good from the outfall works, and in drainage several farms have been drained and connected with mains.

The Nuisance Inspector's Annual Observations appended will furnish an interesting summary as to work which has been looked to during the course of the year.

The Canal Boats Inspector's Report is also appended, and he acting as Inspector of Cowsheds and Dairies, &c., has reported the results of his visits. One particular issue being the Cheetham House Farmstead before referred to.

The points to which, in conclusion, I beg to submit for your attention during this current year as matters pertaining to improve the health and welfare of the people are

Condition of Streets, Part of Streets, Yards, and Approaches to Dwelling-Houses.—The ill effects of a wet, muddy state thereof having been fully explained hitherto, surfaces of many yards from their irregularity, and ill laid out character practically becoming nuisances in themselves *e.g.*: Plank Lane and Warrington Road.

Gullies too, are not infrequently found in some way or another in anything but a satisfactory way for the purposes they are intended to fulfil.

Closet and Ashpits.—I have pointed out from time to time the evils associated with a minimum accommodation in regard thereto, and for instance at Lily Lane, and Abram Brow, in all three blocks where such ought to be increased. Each house should have its own for the use of its individual occupants, and

not two closets and one ashpit for half-a-dozen houses. It will be obvious that the containing places must become rapidly filled when nearly thirty persons use the same.

It is desirable also that in future, attention should be given to the ventilation of house drains as provided for in the bye-laws.

I beg to remain, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NATHAN HANNAH,

M.O.H., F.I.S. of M.O.H.'s.

District Council Offices,

Abram, near Wigan,

February 1st, 1902.

Dear Sir,

I beg to forward you Summary of Nuisances that have been dealt with during the past year :—

NUISANCES FROM				No. of Notices Served.	No. of Houses Affected.
1...	Stopped Drains and Gullies	...	...	12	17
1...	Defective Gullies	...	...	3	3
3...	„ Brickwork around Waste Pipes and Gullies	...	...	4	10
4 ..	Dwelling Houses—Dirty and requiring Whitewashing	...	...	2	4
5...	„ „ Overcrowded	...	...	5	5
6...	Filthy Yards from the keeping of Poultry	...	...	2	2
7...	Defective Ashpits	...	...	3	6
8...	„ Wastepipes	...	...	7	8
9...	Damp Walls through defective spouts	...	...	1	1
10...	Defective Roof	...	...	1	1
11...	Isolated Houses Redrained	...	...	3	3
Totals				43	60

The Slaughter-houses, Workshops, and Bakehouses have been regularly attended to during the past year. Notices having been served for Whitewashing in March and September :—

Slaughter-houses	...	...	2
Workshops	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	7
Total			11

Sewerage Outfall Works.—These works have now been working for a period of one year and ten months, and up to the present time has given every satisfaction. During the past year, 1901, the Mersey and Irwell River Inspectors have paid *ten visits* to the works, the times of the visits varying from 8 a.m., to 4.45 p.m. Three samples were taken during the years, February 26th at 3.30 p.m., May 2nd at 4 p.m., and August 7th at 4.45 p.m., the effluent proving satisfactory in each case.

Nightsoil Contracts.—At the commencement of the year, 1901, the removal of nightsoil throughout the district was done by contract, but the contractor in the No. 1 Abram Brow District did his work in such an unworkmanlike manner, as well as neglecting the ashpits for lengthened periods, that the Council gave the contractor a month's notice in accordance with the agreement, and took over the cleansing and disinfecting of the ashpits themselves in this particular district for the rest of the year, and I feel sure that the result of

this trial so far has given every satisfaction. At the time the Council took over the cleansing of these ashpits I recommended that the rubbish such as old shoes, tins, oilcloth, old rugs, old carpets, glass, pots, wire, &c., should be collected once a week instead of being thrown into the ashpits or left lying about in the back yards, or thrown into the back passages, and I am happy to say that the recommendation was adopted, and has been attended with excellent results as it not only stops most of the articles mentioned from being thrown about in the streets, but it is a boon to the workmen who have to empty the ashpits. The emptying of the ashpits in the No. 2 Abram Brow District has not been very satisfactory.

BORSDANE BROOK.

This Brook, which passes along the Township Boundary of Abram for nearly 3 miles, was during the greater part of the year, nothing more than an open sewer. The pollution was easily traced to the Hindley Urban District Council's Sewerage Works, and the Overflows along their Sewers. Nothing has yet been satisfactorily done to remedy, or prevent, this pollution from continuing, as the pollution is still going on. But owing to the larger volume of clear water flowing along the Brook during the Winter months, and the atmosphere being much colder, the pollution is less noticeable, but I can positively say that unless some immediate steps are taken by the Hindley Authority to stop this pollution the Brook, during the coming Summer, will be quite as filthy and become quite as serious a nuisance as last Summer, and which will assist Summer Diarrhoea, and I have no doubt will be again followed by both Typhoid and Diphtheria.

Yours obediently,

JAMES EATOCK,

Inspector of Nuisances.

DR. HANNAH, M.O.H.,

Rock House, Ashton-in-Makerfield.

District Council Offices,

Abram, near Wigan,

January 6th, 1902.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council of Abram.

GENTLEMEN,

Below I give details of the boats that have come under my notice from the various towns at which they are registered, and I may say there appears to be a decrease of the number of children on them.

FROM	No. of Boats Inspected.	No. of Children on them.	No. of Children of School age.	No. of Children under School age.
Blackburn	13	—	—	—
Leigh	4	—	—	—
Liverpool	35	3	1	2
Manchester	1	—	—	—
Runcorn	5	1	—	1
Wigan	13	—	—	—
	71	4	1	3

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JNO. SMITH,

Boats Inspector.

Statistical Supplement to the Annual Report of the Urban District Council
of Abram Sanitary Authority.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.

Have you Hospital Accommodation for any case of Infectious Disease
met with on a Canal Boat in your Sanitary District? } No.

Is Inspector's remuneration inclusive with payment for other duties? Yes.

Number of Boats inspected in Year 1901 ... 71

Number of Boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations ... 69

Total Number for which the Cabins were registered... 287

Total Number occupying the Cabins ... 167

Details of Occupations: Male Adults ... 130

Female Adults ... 33

Children of School Age ... 1

Children under School Age ... 3

167

Notification of Change of Master (No. 16—46) ... 2

Table I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1901, and previous years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Non- resident in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District	
		Number	Rate §	Under 1 Yr of Age		At all Ages					Number	Rate§
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate§					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1891	4309	174	40·3	27	155	86	19·95	...	...	...	...	...
1892	4383	198	45·1	34	171	90	20·50	...	...	...	...	...
1893	4483	210	46·8	37	176	106	23·50	...	...	...	...	...
1894	4604	181	39·3	26	143	86	17·30	...	...	...	...	...
1895	4694	203	43·3	39	192	100	20·30	...	...	...	...	...
1896	4806	220	45·8	39	177	98	20·60	...	...	...	...	...
1897	4934	227	46·0	45	198	102	20·00	...	...	...	...	...
1898	5054	238	47·0	59	247	130	25·72	...	...	...	128	25·32
1899	5175	235	45·4	57	242	111	21·40	...	...	...	111	21·4
1900	5277	252	47·7	57	230	145	27·4	...	...	...	145	27·4
Averages for years 1891- 1900	4771	213·8	44·67	42·0	193·1	104·8	21·71	...	...	...	...	...
1901	6325	248	39·2	56	225	164	25·92	...	...	5	163	25·77

§ Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of areas covered by water), 1928.

Total population at all ages, 6306 at census of 1901.

Number of inhabited houses „ 1116.

Average number of persons per house „ 5·65.

(1). Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Nil.

(2). Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Wigan Workhouse; Wigan Infirmary.

Table II.—Vital Statistics of Abram, 1901,
and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
4	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1891 ...	4309	174	86	27
1892 ...	4383	198	90	34
1893 ...	4483	210	106	37
1894 ...	4604	181	80	26
1895 ...	4694	203	100	39
1896 ...	4805	220	98	39
1897 ...	4934	227	102	45
1898 ...	5054	238	128	59
1899 ...	5175	235	111	57
1900 ...	5277	252	145	57
Averages of Years 1891 to 1900. }	4771	213	104	42
1901 ...	6325	248	163	56

Table III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year, 1901.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages †—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.
Small-pox							
Cholera [†]						†	
Diphtheria	f 45 m 40	f 2 m 1	f 10 m 11	f 28 m 16	f 3 m 10	f 2 m 2	
Membranous croup	f 1 m 1	f 1	m 1				
Erysipelas	f 1 m 2	m 1				f 1 m 1	
Scarlet fever	f 39 m 28	m 1	f 16 m 13	f 22 m 13	f 1 m 1		
Typhus fever							
Enteric fever	f 20 m 34			f 4 m 15	f 8 m 9	f 8 m 10	
Relapsing fever							
Continued fever							
Puerperal fever							
Plague... ..							
Totals	211	6	51	98	32	24	

Table IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year, 1901.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages							Deaths in Public Institutions
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small Pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	6	1	4	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	5	...	3	2	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	10	...	4	5	1	...	...	...
Croup	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Fever ... Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric	9	...	...	2	1	6	...	...
Other continued .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	15	10	3	...	...	1	1	1*
Enteritis	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Phthisis	8	...	1	1	...	6	...	1*
Other tubercular diseases	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	4	...	...	...	...	1	3	...
Bronchitis	9	3	4	...	...	1	1	...
Pneumonia	23	10	7	1	2	1	2	1§
Pleurisy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism. Cirrhosis of Liver .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Veneral diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	10	...	...	...	1	6	3	...
Accidents	6	2	1	...	1	2	...	...
Suicides .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting diseases of infants	12	11	1	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsive „	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
.....
.....
.....
All other causes	24	2	4	...	2	6	10	1* 1§
All causes	163	56	34	12	10	31	20	5

*—Wigan Workhouse.

§—Wigan Infirmary.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I, II, III, and IV, attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

NATHAN HANNAH,

February 19th, 1902.

Medical Officer of Health.

